

P6. MOTIVATION TO GET A TATTOO OR PIERCING. RESULT OF A BELGIAN QUESTIONNAIRE

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Aim: To investigate the motivation to get a tattoo or piercing and the appreciation of the final result.

Method: A questionnaire was presented to 105 participants of 3 different groups: 36 prisoners, 37 visitors of a summer music festival and 32 patients of a dermatology out-clinic.

Results: The motivation to get a tattoo in the majority of the people was symbolic (mother, partner, children and non documented personal reasons). Zodiac signs being a popular motive.

If people had regret it was mostly because of the bad esthetic result due to poor quality tattooing, poor wound healing and surinfection after tattooing or piercing resulting in disfiguring scarring.

Conclusions: Tattoos often have a symbolic significance. To avoid disappointment and regret tattooing and piercing should be a well informed decision and be done in good hygienic circumstances by a trained body art professional.